



TreePAC

Factsheet

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treepac.org

Trees and open space are essential to building healthy communities.

Development, housing, and growth is putting pressure on Seattle's urban canopy.

- Between 2003 and 2007, Seattle's redeveloping neighborhoods lost more than 35 percent of their tree cover.
- In single family zones 55 percent of the street trees are less than six inches in trunk diameter, meaning trees are getting smaller and contributing less to the urban canopy.
- Seattle remains one of the few cities in the four county region that doesn't require developers to pay impact fees to help cover the intense infrastructure demands caused by their projects.

Seattle is falling behind other urban areas in preserving and adding open space.

- The national open space goal from the National Recreation and Parks Association is one acre of park per 100 city residents; Seattle's current ratio is 0.89 acre per 100 residents.
- To meet the city's future needs an estimated 175 to 235 acres of parks and open space will be needed to accommodate growth, mostly in close proximity or within the urban villages.

The TreePAC mission is to influence the government to protect, maintain and increase the urban forest.

Community Benefits of Trees

Trees are a critical part of urban infrastructure, and provide a number of ecological benefits: preventing storm-water runoff and mudslide conditions, cooling surrounding structures, and generally helping to clean the water supply. In Seattle, fruit trees fed nearly 100,000 individuals through fruit recovery programs that donate the produce to food banks.

In addition, trees help to reduce asthma attacks, lessen heart problems, and other public health issues. Trees reduce the incidence of crime, smog, and noise pollution and create higher housing values.

Larger trees provide significantly more benefits to the community, particularly in cleaning the air, and are much more difficult to replace.

Open Spaces

Open spaces provide opportunities for recreation and physical activity, aesthetic benefits, by providing pleasing surroundings, relief from congestion and development, ecosystem services through the preservation of habitats. Open spaces, enjoyed by all, promote social cohesion and environmental equality.